Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- This Nonprovisional Application for Patent is related by subject matter to U.S. Nonprovisional Applications for Patent Nos. ~~09/_____ (Attorney Docket No. 27493-00397USPT)~~ 09/764,622, ~~09/___,___ (Attorney Docket No. 27493-00409USPT)~~ 09/764,960, and ~~09/___,___ (Attorney Docket No. 27493-00410USPT)~~ 09/764,953, all of which are filed on even date herewith. These U.S. Nonprovisional Applications for Patent Nos. ~~09/___,___, 09/___,___, and 09/___,___~~ 09/764,622, 09/764,960 and 09/764,953 are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety herein. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 25, line 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- The hybrid STM/ATM network 320 of FIG. 3 comprises one or more STM nodes, also known as PSTN/ISDN nodes 330. While only two such PSTN/ISDN nodes 330_1 and 330_2 are shown in FIG. 3 for sake of illustration, it should be understood that the invention is not limited to only two such nodes. The structure and operation of conventional PSTN/ISDN nodes 330 are well known; such as those typified by utilization of Ericsson AXE switches, for example. Therefore, only selected pertinent portions of conventional PSTN/ISDN nodes 330 are described herein with reference to PSTN/ISDN node 330_1. For example, PSTN/ISDN node 330_1 has processor(s) 332 which execute, e.g., node application software including switch and resource control software 333. Such software is used to control STM circuit switch 335 as well as signaling terminals 337 which comprise PSTN/ISDN node 330_1. Other details of the structure and operation of a conventional PSTN/ISDN node are understood, for example, from United States Patent Application Serial No. 08/601,964 for "Telecommunications Switching Exchange", now abandoned, which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety herein. --

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Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 27, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- In hybrid network 320, a PSTN/ISDN node 330 and a ATM node 340 can be paired together in the manner illustrated in FIG. 3. With such a pair, the PSTN/ISDN node 330 and ATM node 340 are collectively referred to as hybrid node pair 330/340. The network 320 of certain embodiment(s) of the invention thus can comprise any number of hybrid node pairs 330/340. An ATM node such as ATM node 340 takes on differing configurations, but commonly has a main processor 342 or the like which executes application software including switch and resource control software as generally depicted by 343 in FIG. 3. The heart of an ATM node is usually the ATM switch core or switch fabric, which for the illustrated embodiment is shown as ATM cell switch 345 in FIG. 3. Further information regarding an exemplary ATM switch is provided by United States Patent ~~Application Serial~~ No. ~~08/188,101~~ 6,483,831, entitled "Asynchronous Transfer Mode Switch", ~~filed November 9, 1998~~ dated November 19, 2002, which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety herein. ATM cell switch 345 has plural ingress ports and plural egress ports, with at least some of such ports having a device board attached thereto. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 28, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- Each device board at ATM node 340 can have one or more different functions performed thereby or one or more different devices mounted thereon. For example, one of the device boards attached to a port of ATM cell switch 345 can, in one embodiment, have the main processor 342 mounted thereon. Other device boards may have other processors, known as "board processors". Some device boards serve as extension terminals (ETs) 346 which may be used to connect the ATM node to other nodes. For example, the ATM physical link 341 shown in FIG. 3 has a first end connected to an extension terminal ET 346_1 of ATM node 340_1, while a second end of ATM physical link 341 is connected to an unillustrated extension terminal ET of ATM node 340_2. The device boards connected to ATM cell switch 345 of ATM node 340 are

not specifically illustrated in detail in FIG. 3, but the structure and operation of such device boards is understood with reference to (for example) the following United States Patent Applications, all of which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety herein: U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/893,507 for "Augmentation of ATM Cell With Buffering Data" now abandoned; U.S. Patent ~~Application Serial~~ No. ~~08/893,677~~ 6,128,295 for "Buffering of Point-to-Point and/or Point-to-Multipoint ATM Cells"; U.S. Patent ~~Application Serial~~ No. ~~08/893,479~~ 6,034,958 for "VPNC Look-Up Function"; U.S. Patent ~~Application Serial~~ No. ~~09/188,097~~ 6,504,845 for "Centralized Queuing For ATM Node"~~, filed November 9, 1998~~. --